

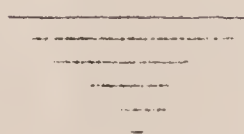
OTTERY ST. MARY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1953.



Dr. R. R. Traill. M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OTTERY SAINT MARY.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ottery Saint Mary Urban District Council.

I beg to present to you a statement of the Public Health of your
District for the year 1953.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births	...	37.
Still Births	...	0.
Boys	...	19.
Girls	...	18.

There were no illegitimate births.

Deaths.

In our own district ... 64.

Transferable from other districts 5.

Males	...	30.
Females	...	34.

Of these deaths:-

- 4 had reached the age of 90 years and upward.
- 14 had reached the age of 80 years and upward.
- 24 had reached the age of 70 years and upward.

There were no deaths of children and the youngest age of death was
at 33 years.

There were ten deaths from Cancer; none from Tuberculosis; one
accidental death; and no case of suicide.

The average age of death was about 72 years.

Hospital.

The following details have been given by the Ottery Saint
Mary District Cottage Hospital, viz:-

Admissions	...	366.
Discharges	...	341.
Out Patients	...	533.
Out Patients Attendance		1,895.
Operations	...	253.
Deaths	...	15.

Physiotherapy Department. During the year 148 patients
attended, and 3,759 treatments were given.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Infant Welfare Centre is open every Thursday except during
holiday periods. During this year it was open 48 times.

On the Register there were:- 70 Mothers; 87 Children. The
attendances were as follows, viz:-

Mothers	...	618.
Infants (under 1 year).		366.
Toddlers	...	292.

Prevalence and Treatment of Infectious Diseases.

I received the following notifications of Infectious Diseases
during the year, viz:-

Measles	47.
Tuberculosis	2.
Polio-Myelitis	0.
Scarlet Fever	0.
Whooping Cough	48.
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0.
Dysentery	0.
Erysipelas	0.
Paratyphoid "B"	0.

I have received no records of Venereal Diseases. The nearest Centre for treatment is at Exeter, and presumably, any cases that occur in this district go to Exeter direct for treatment, and do not come under my notice.

National Health Service Act 1946.

The local Medical Practitioners still work well with the District Nurses in the District, and jointly are responsible for the Treatment and welfare of Expectant and Nursing Mothers. Difficult cases are still transferred to the Specialist services at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, and in emergencies the Specialists are always prepared to come to the district to visit and give their help. The young children up to 5 years of age have the services of the Infant Welfare Centre, and the health visitor visits them when necessary. Older children attending school are catered for by the School Medical Services.

National Assistance Act 1948.

Section 47. No action has been taken under this section during the year.

Food poisoning outbreaks.

There have been no outbreaks during the year.

Water Supply.

The water supply to the town area continued on the whole to be satisfactory, both in quality and quantity, throughout the year. Temporary breakdowns to the two small booster pumps supplying the higher parts of the town caused some little inconvenience, but improvements now contemplated by the East Devon Water Board should obviate this trouble when the several proposed works are completed.

Apart from one or two isolated instances samples of the water taken during the year for Bacteriological Examination were reported as being of Class I quality and therefore satisfactory.

The domestic water supply to the parishes of Wiggaton and Tipton St. John still give cause for considerable concern, and the East Devon Water Board have been persistently urged to expedite the work of laying mains water to these areas; it is understood that certain progress has been made in respect of the preparation of the proposed scheme but meanwhile the need is very urgent.

The private company (owned by Sir John Kennaway, of Escot Estate) carried out minor improvements to the water mains during the year and the water supply to the West Hill part of this district can be considered fairly satisfactory.

Isolated dwellings in the district are in the main supplied by water from private wells, varying in depth, quality and quantity.

Sewerage.

The Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed, during the early part of the year, to prepare and modify, where necessary, for submission to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government, a scheme for the enlargement and modernisation of the Sewage Disposal works for the Town and adjacent area. New and proposed erections of dwellings are now making the new proposals urgent and necessary. The original scheme was prepared in 1939.

Isolated dwellings situated in the more rural parts of the district are dependent upon cesspools and septic tanks for the disposal of sewerage. The Council do not provide a cesspool emptying service and owners and occupiers of residential properties accordingly make their own private arrangements. It is noted that more frequent emptying of the cesspools is becoming necessary, and it may be that the new soap detergents now being used in most households is the cause of the trouble.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops. Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

	<u>No. on Register.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections.</u>
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority.	24	41
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	22	73
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority, Building Sites, &c.	14	84
Totals	<u>60</u>	<u>198</u>

Defects found and remedied:-

Unsuitable or defective Sanitary conveniences 7.

Housing.

Number of Dwellings Erected:-

By Local Authority	16.
By Other Bodies or Persons	12.
Total	<u>28.</u>

Meat and Other Foods.

Butchers Shops, Bakehouses and other food preparing places have been inspected during the year - in no instance was it necessary to take formal action against owners or occupiers of these premises. Improvement was maintained in the condition of the several cafes and restaurants in the district.

The following meat and other foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption, and subsequently destroyed, viz:-

Beef	...	17 lbs.
Tinned Meats	...	80 lbs.
Miscellaneous	...	106 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Total		<u>203$\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.</u>

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(signed) R. R. TRAILL.

Medical Officer of Health.

